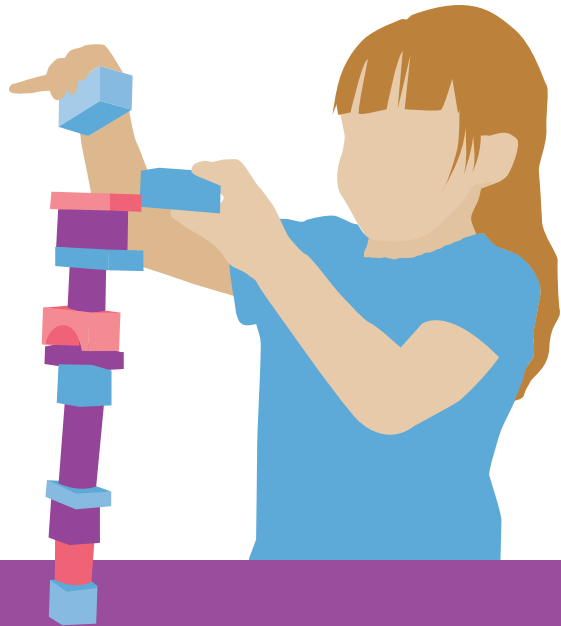


“We must build a system of education in North Carolina that gives every child every opportunity to succeed, regardless of geographic location or economic condition. If we are to eliminate the achievement gap and give all children a chance to succeed, then we must provide high-quality pre-k opportunities to our four-year-olds who need them the most.”

Governor Michael F. Easley



State Office

NC Office of School Readiness

More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program

2075 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2075

(919) 981-5300 phone

(919) 855-6840 fax

moreatfour@ncmail.net



■ North Carolina
■ Office of School Readiness

Pre-kindergarten prepares children for school success

North Carolina is investing in the educational success of at-risk children through the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program. Pre-kindergarten is a research-proven strategy for school readiness.

The More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program is available to children in all North Carolina counties who are four years old by October 16, will be entering kindergarten the following year, and are at risk for poor school outcomes.

Children attend a full school-day, full school-year program that meets high-quality state standards.

More at Four is community-based. The program is integrated with other early childhood programs in the community and administered at the county level.

More at Four classrooms may be provided in the public schools, licensed child care centers or Head Start programs.



Children's language, literacy, math and social skills are improving substantially

Independent evaluation findings by FPG Child Development Institute show that children who participated in More at Four exhibited substantial growth in key skill areas including language, literacy, math and social skills, from the beginning of the pre-kindergarten year through the end of kindergarten. The program is especially beneficial for those children most at risk of school failure.¹

A commitment to high quality

North Carolina is among the top six states nationally for state pre-kindergarten quality standards, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research.

More at Four provides:

- well-educated teachers with specialized training
- small class size and low teacher-child ratios
- research-based, comprehensive curricula
- focus on the whole child and family

Children's experiences in More at Four are rooted in North Carolina's early learning standards for preschoolers, called *Foundations*. These standards incorporate the five domains of development and learning fundamental to school readiness:

- approaches to learning
- emotional and social development
- health and physical development
- language development and communication
- cognitive development

More at Four teachers engage children in active learning with a focus on each domain. Children in More at Four:

- Learn about letters, colors, shapes and numbers
- Learn to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers
- Listen to stories and learn about books
- Explore math, science, art and music
- Expand language skills
- Develop a positive sense of self and an enthusiasm for learning
- Explore and play outside daily

More at Four staff value the diversity of children and their families and are responsive to the needs of individual children.

Collaborating for children's success

The North Carolina Office of School Readiness, in the NC Department of Public Instruction, was recently created by joining state- and federally-funded preschool programs into one office at the state level, including:

- More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program
- Preschool Exceptional Children
- Title I Preschool
- Even Start Family Literacy

The Office of School Readiness will strengthen preschool services statewide with enhanced coordination of these programs and with Smart Start, Head Start, public schools, licensed child care and early intervention services.

¹ Peisner-Feinberg, E.S. & Maris, C.L. (2005). Evaluation of the North Carolina More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program: Children's Longitudinal Outcomes and Classroom Quality in Kindergarten. Chapel Hill, NC: FPG Child Development Institute.